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Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners of the FCC,

The nation's electrical power producers and distributors have tried to convince the Commission that Broadband Over Power Line is necessary and essential to extend high speed internet access to much of the country. I believe such statements are in error and a gross exaggeration of the abilities of the electrical industry. In fact, last week in the Northeastern United States, the industry demonstrated that it cannot reliably provide electrical service to the customers it already reaches. To add internet access would be folly.

Please note that significant numbers of consumers are not demanding such service. The lack of such public clamor should be a clue that this measure is being pushed only by the group that would profit most • the electrical industry itself. For the FCC to accept the power industry's demands is unconscionable.

The President of the United States acknowledged that the nation's power grid is obsolete and in need of replacement. The massive power outage on Thursday, 8/14/2003, affirms the vulnerability of the system. We should be subtracting from the industry's load, not adding to it.

The failure of the Northeast Power Grid will require the expenditure of millions and possibly billions of dollars • all of which will be passed on to consumers. Adding BPL on top of this massive expenditure would cost millions or billions more and doesn't improve the nation's electrical infrastructure by one iota.

Clearly, Docket 03-104 is NOT in the public interest. There has been no demonstration of need, no proof that BPL will vastly extend internet access to those who want it and do not have it now. In fact, if BPL is approved it will likely have a negative impact on the tens of dozens of other utilities, which currently provide internet access by cable, DSL lines, etc. It would be a mistake to concentrate the nation's internet access in the hands of the big power companies.

In addition, RFI tests conducted by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) between 2 mHz and 80 mHz reveal that BPL radiation causes interference to existing FCC-licensed radio services, which operate in the High Frequency (HF) and lower Very High Frequency (VHF) spectrum. Many utilities have claimed in filings before the Commission, that BPL complies with Part 15 rules for interference, but I believe tests conducted by the ARRL prove that these claims by opportunistic, profit-seeking utilities are not true.

The licensed services which use this portion of the spectrum include the Federal Aviation Administration and the Amateur Radio Service. BPL interference could render point-to-point communications for these two services unusable. In addition, the United States Military frequently uses some of these same frequencies and the high interference levels caused by BPL could both jeopardize reliable communication and threaten national security.

BPL is a bad idea. Kill Docket 03-104.

Respectfully submitted,

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